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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. IV FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1943 No. 27

A BRILLIANT VICTORY

MR. CURTIN

The Victory was achieved by General MacArthur's brilliant concentration rather than by overwhelming numerical superiority A comparison between the use of only 136 aircraft carrying a total bomb weight of 226 tons against the convoy with Friday's Essen attack and 1,500 tons of bombs dropped in 40 minutes placed the Bismarck Sea battle in the correct perspective

Australia's entire air strategy was designed to establish shore bases and make it impossible for Japan to reinforce centres menacing the Commonwealth

We have pride in our notable achievement. Never before have our forces on so many fronts caused such justification for the belief in final Victory

Mr. CURTIN, Prime Minister of Australia

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Running Commentary	3
On the Moscow Front—1812 & 1943	4–5
" Out of Evil Cometh Good "	7
Ten Years President of U.S.: Roosevelt's Work reviewed	8
At the White House—A Singular Assembly.	12
Anglo-American Aid to Russia	14
Sweat can beat steel	15
The Melitopol Line	16
New Russian drive to Kiev	17
Russia's Food Problem	17
Turkey's " Defensive Security "	17
Diary of the War	20

SAVE MORE FOOD

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S APPEAL

We invite the special attention of our readers to the following appeal issued by His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, Governor of Madras, some time ago:

> As the public are aware, there is a shortage of certain kinds of foodstuffs, notably sugar. It is necessary to conserve stocks and avoid waste so that all may get their fair share as far as possible.

His Excellency the Governor therefore wishes to invite the co-operation of the public for this object, and appeals to them to help by curtailing, as far as possible, large-scale public and private entertaining at festive and social gatherings and by restricting the number of guests to a minimum. A restriction on the number of guests at public tea-parties will be particularly helpful, as it will result in a considerable saving of sugar.

His Excellency does not, however, wish there to be any curtailment of entertaining of the troops who are defending our homes, and would be glad if those persons and associations who have so generously undertaken the entertainment of troops would continue their efforts which are so much appreciated.

His Excellency the Governor is confident that the public will respond to his appeal and voluntarily impose this sacrifice upon themselves, so that the limited supplies of foodstuffs may not be wasted.

Have you a Camera ?

A NEW PRIZE COMPETITION

There are many Madrasis now on active Military service, earning good pay from which they are saving money to spend after the war. It is important for the welfare of the soldier and his family that these savings should be usefully and productively spent, for instance, in rural reconstruction and post-war development schemes.

Our Sepoys want to know what they can best spend their money on, and we propose to show them.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN !

The Editor wants photos of—**(1) A well being sunk, (2) A finished well in use, (3) Terracing of fields, (4) Fruit topes, (5) Vegetable gardens, (6) A small shop, (7) Poultry keeping, (8) Improved cattle, (9) House-building, (10) A wedding, (11) Any other subject which you consider that a Sepoy might like to spend money on.**

A first prize of Rs. 20 and a second prize of Rs. 10 will be given for the best photographs submitted. Prizes of Rs. 3 will be given for the best photos in each of the above groups.

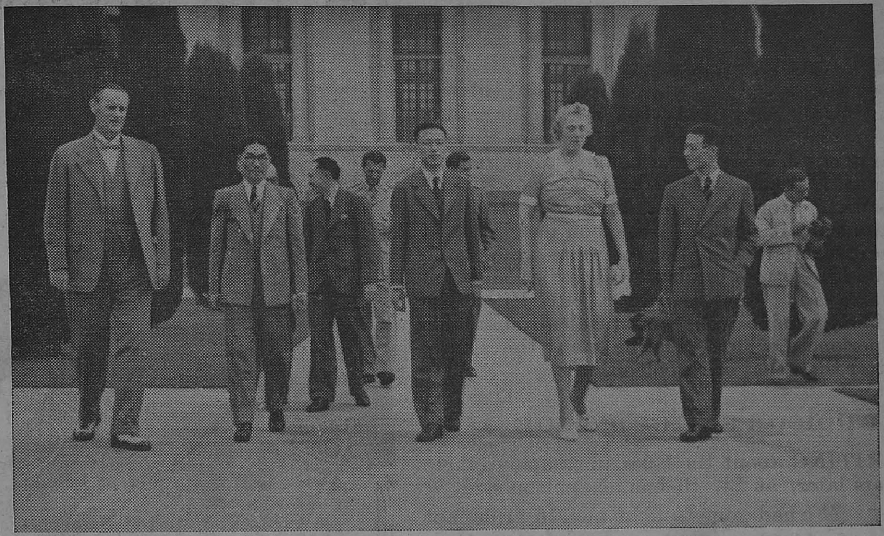
The Editor reserves the right to withhold prizes in any group in which the required standards of quality are not satisfied.

No photos can be returned to senders.

All entries must reach

THE EDITOR, MADRAS WAR REVIEW,
VICTORY HOUSE,
MADRAS,

by March 31st.



CHINESE MISSION MEETS VICEROY.—The Chinese Educational Mission arrived in Delhi on March 1.

His Excellency the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Linlithgow gave a luncheon in honour of the Mission. Picture shows the party having a stroll in the grounds of the Viceroy's House.

Running Commentary

Failure of Rommel's New Offensive—Honours of First Round to Allies.

ROMMEL started a new offensive against the Eighth Army on Saturday last (March 6). He made two all-out attempts to smash through GENERAL MONTGOMERY'S positions before the MARETH LINE. His attack ended in complete failure and cost him a heavy toll of men and armour. His attempt, after the initial repulse, to split the Allied forces also failed. A frontal attack from the direction of the MARETH LINE itself was also thrown back. "The first round of the new Rommel battle", says *Reuter's* Special Correspondent at Allied Headquarters in NORTH AFRICA, "ended in a clear win for the Eighth Army. ROMMEL lost heavily in men and tanks and material, without achieving the slightest improvement in position." According to the Algiers Radio, ROMMEL'S forces were severely mauled by the Eighth Army.

The renewed fighting in TUNISIA has lasted more than three weeks. The steady and solid resistance of the Eighth Army has held up the Germans whose attempt to exploit their early success failed completely. ROMMEL'S original object was evidently to postpone the Allied attack which was thought to be impending, or it might be that he wanted to take a risk when he found that things were going well for him. "The boldness of the stroke, the quick following up, and precipitate retreat", says *The Times*, "are characteristic of this clever but erratic commander."

The defeat of the erratic commander will be viewed with greater apprehension by the Italians, for the driving-out of the Axis from TUNISIA means that ITALY will come into the danger zone of Allied

(*Continued on page 6*)

"Time-Bombs From America"—I

Another place to open up a SECOND FRONT might be at Our Own Front Door.

On The Moscow

HISTORY repeats itself. So often has this saying been repeated that it almost jars on the ear. But what else can be said of the recent happenings on the Moscow Front ? Does not Marshal Timoshenko's drive remind one of Marshal Kutusoff's, and is not Hitler's position more or less similar to that of Napoleon, in 1812 ? Napoleon had at least Empress Marie Louise to write frank and revealing letters to about his experiences of Russia and Russian winter, but Hitler has evidently none with whom he can share his experiences, which must be many times more bitter than that of Napoleon.

Napoleon's Confession

WRITING about the Russian campaign three years later, at St. Helena, Napoleon said,

> "I had gone to fight men in arms, not angry Nature. I defeated their armies. But I was unable to conquer fire, frost, numbness and death. Fate was stronger than I."

WHAT Napoleon had to contend against a hundred and thirty years ago—"scorched earth," biting cold and an army that knows its job—Hitler has had to grapple with in the vast expanse that is Russia. Napoleon entered Viasma on August 29, 1812, but the Russians had burnt the bridges and set fire to the town. When he entered Moscow on September 14, he found the city on fire.

> "It is incredible," he exclaimed, "It is a war of extermination, an atrocious form of tactics that has no parallel in the annals of civilisation"!

HITLER found this same tactics employed in an even greater degree, and on a vaster scale, by the Russians. Fire and frost, numbness and death—he has had more than his share of each of them, but it is the strategy of the Red Army that has baffled him, the strategy which symbolises his fate, the strategy of encirclement and extinguishment.

At Smolensk—Napoleon and Hitler

ON his way back from Moscow, Napoleon reached Smolensk on November 9. He saw a scene of utter desolation. The city was filled with thousands of sick and wounded. His supplies were running out, and two Russian armies were hurrying from different directions to cut off the line of his retreat. Therefore he thought it necessary to move quickly before the last road to safety was closed. He left Smolensk on November 14. The dwindling remnants of his 150,000 men marched on and on, till they crossed the river at Borisov and escaped, before the Russians launched a double attack on November 28.

HITLER seems to be in Smolensk, Germany's biggest base in Russia, in 1943, a hundred and thirty-one years later, with no better chances of success. It is believed to be his own headquarters, and it is towards this that an important Russian thrust is heading. This is part of the great Russian offensive launched by Marshal Timoshenko.

IT was twelve days ago (March 1) that the Soviet Information Bureau, announced for the first time that Russian troops under the command of Marshal Timoshenko launched an offensive against the German 16th Army and captured 302 inhabited localities, including Demyansk, north-west of Rzhev. The Russian troops broke the strongly-fortified line of enemy positions in a number of sectors, and threatened the German troops with double encirclement. But the enemy sensed the danger and began a hurried retreat westwards. Marshal Timoshenko's forces smashed through the German "Demyansk Fortress," south of Lake Ilmen.

Front—1812 & 1943

Marshal Timoshenko's Perfect Timing

REUTER'S Special Correspondent in Moscow reports that the Germans were surprised by the speed of the attack and abandoned large quantities of arms and even motor transport. He says,

> "WHAT was a pistol pointed at a vital link in the Soviet positions has now been turned against the Germans. The Germans, no doubt, had schemes for Demyansk, but once more M. Stalin's strategy has rendered the German plans worthless. Marshal Timoshenko struck with perfect timing, just as the great Soviet offensive along the Southern Front was beginning to slow down after three months of uninterrupted successes."

WE have already referred to the secret of these successes, viz., the policy of doing many things at a time and doing everything well. After great successes in the Southern Front by means of simultaneous pressure on widely separated German strongholds, the centre of gravity of Russian counter-attack has shifted to the Moscow and Leningrad Fronts. It seems as though the successful experiment conducted in the limited area of the Southern Front is now to be tried on the two other battle fronts of Moscow and Leningrad. This has already met with important successes.

THE capture of Rzev, a big German hedgehog position 110 miles northwest of Moscow, on March 3, immensely increases the importance of Velikiye Luki which was retaken by the Russians last autumn. The Russians are now attacking on a broad front in the area between Velikiye Luki and Kholm. Velikiye Luki is 30 miles from the railway, the capture of which would isolate Hitler's armies round Leningrad from those on the Moscow Front.

Hitler's 700-mile Front Cracking

HOW the policy of simultaneous pressure on a number of widely-separated German strongholds is being carried out by Marshal Timoshenko will be clear by a reference to the map of the Moscow and Leningrad Fronts. The great Russian general is developing an attack towards Staraya Russa in the north; he has captured Gzhatsk, and is making a two-pronged sweep towards Viasma and Smolensk. It may be stated that Hitler's 700-mile battle front from Staraya Russa to Orel, which is stated to be the toughest part of Hitler's defence line in Russia, is bending and cracking under the weight of the blows of the Red Army, and that the Moscow front base of Smolensk in particular is in danger.

Along Napoleon's Road of Retreat

SOVIET forces are now driving west from Gzhatsk along the same road by which Napoleon retreated in 1812. They have captured SYCHEVKA, 40 miles north of Viasma, and Viasma's fall is imminent. Of the quadrangle opposite Moscow, three points are in Russian hands—Velikiye Luki, Rzhev and Viasma. It is only a question of time when what was for some time Napoleon's, and what is now Hitler's headquarters will fall into Russian hands. The capture of Smolensk will mean the removal of the threat to Moscow.

THINGS are happening at a fast pace on the Moscow Front and this may be due to, what Wickham Steed calls, the new disease that has caught Hitler's forces—*Stalin-g aditis*—the fear of the fate that overtook Field Marshal Paulus and his Army, the fear of the line of retreat being cut.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 3)

attack. It may be pointed out that the mountains of TUNISIA are like an extension of southern ITALY and SICILY into AFRICA. If the sea floor of the CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN were to be lifted half a mile higher, ITALY, SICILY, MALTA and TUNISIA would become a continuous land belt linking AFRICA with CENTRAL EUROPE. The danger to ITALY from a powerful hostile army assembled in TUNISIA is, therefore, obvious.

This fact was well known even to the ancient Romans. That was why they fought Carthaginian Hannibal till they were able to raze the walls of Carthage—which was only a few miles from what is now modern Tunis—to the ground.

* * * *

Tunisia, the Bridge-head to Europe: Allied Decision for "Grand Slam." So far as the Germans are concerned, they considered the Anglo-American invasion of TUNISIA as the beginning of a drive, not merely against ITALY, but against the DANUBE and GERMANY herself. When the Germans decided at the last moment to seize TUNISIA, the bridgehead into EUROPE, they must have acted on the calculation that the risk of eventually losing the bulk of Tunisian army was worth taking, if, by so doing, they could hold off the Allies from SOUTHERN EUROPE during the critical stage of the struggle on the Russian front.

But let us look at the situation from the point of view of the Anglo-American forces based on ALGERIA. The distance from ALGIERS to TUNIS is roughly the same as that from LONDON to BERLIN, and so, it was *not* the intention of the Anglo-American forces to take TUNIS soon after landing. Their idea was to spend the winter months in training and consolidating the position from ALGIERS back to DAKAR. But when it was found that the German U-boats could not succeed in impeding the Allied landings and that the resistance of the French forces in WEST and NORTH AFRICA abruptly ceased, the Allied Command decided to play for "grand slam" immediately. That was why the First Army rushed headlong towards TUNISIA. Originally, arrangements were made on the basis of needs of an army of occupation, but these had to be adapted to meet the needs of an army conducting a lightning invasion.

BONE, a key port, was captured soon. Paratroops were landed on airfields deep in CENTRAL TUNISIA ahead of tanks and infantry, and the First Army was well on its way to TUNIS, before it encountered the first German contingents who were overwhelmed by our forces. The breakneck speed of the First Army's advance thinned the battalions and armoured formations into detachments which had out-run their communications.

* * * *

Tunis in Sight—But the Rains Came! The British had passed through TEBOURBA and were within sight of TUNIS 12 miles away by the end of November, but a fort-night earlier the Germans had started strengthening the sea and air bases of TUNIS and BIZETRA. The enemy's resistance stiffened and from the airfields of SICILY and NORTHERN TUNISIA came the Luftwaffe squadrons to bomb our shipping and stores in Bone Harbour. We were within sight of TUNIS. But the rains came! Our tanks and transport vehicles were bogged and the Germans who outnumbered our forward parties began to push them back. TEBOURBA was lost, and the enemy was gaining strength daily. The First Army had, up to this point, conducted its operations with audacity and brilliant improvisation under extremely difficult conditions. But the attempt failed—by the narrowest of margins!

The Germans saw two armies from opposite sides of AFRICA rapidly converging on TUNISIA. The First Army had taken the risk of out-running its strength in its attempt on TUNISIA. The Eighth Army's entry into SOUTHERN TUNISIA was delayed as long as possible by ROMMEL who, in his withdrawal across LIBYA, picked up troops and equipment as he went and gained time for VON ARNIM in the north, by delaying the progress of the Eighth Army. What would have happened if the Allied Command had been able to push really strong armoured formations with an effective air cover from the mountainous region to the centre of TUNISIA and eastwards across the coastal plain?

(*Continued on page* 19.)

"Out of Evil Cometh Good"

By Sir GERALD HODGSON

A few weeks ago I was staying in a private house in Calcutta when the Air Raid sirens sounded the alert. It was 10 o'clock on a clear moonlight night, and, so far as that particular household was concerned, this is what happened. Our host and hostess quickly changed into their uniforms and, in a few minutes, had left the house to take up their posts, he as special constable, and she as nursing sister at a nearby first-aid post. Meantime, all the servants had trooped into the dining room, which was their refuge, and, in a very few minutes, had removed all the crockery and glass from the room, opened the windows and closed the jhilmills. This done, and the lights well dimmed, we all sat, and waited, and talked.

It so happened that on that particular occasion three Japanese bombers had come over the coast and tried to reach Calcutta, but all three had been shot down long before they could get anywhere near the City. So the alert was both short and uneventful; but, when the All Clear sounded at the end of an hour's waiting, I found I had specially noticed two things. Firstly, that all the members of that household knew just what to do when the alarm sounded—and had done it quickly and without fuss—and secondly, that there had been much comfort in the thought that the Calcutta A.R.P.—the wardens, the messengers, the rescue parties, the first-aiders, the hospitals, the staff in the control rooms and report centres and the fire-fighters were all the time standing by ready to come to the aid of their fellow men and women should they need help—just as they had done during the previous raids.

BEFORE THE BLITZ

You remember how, in the early days and months of the war, some of us—perhaps it would be true to say most of us—were inclined to look upon the members of the Civil Defence Services as men and women who, though harmless enough, were really taking the war rather too seriously. The war was then very far away, and in those early days anyone who suggested that it was as well to be prepared against the day when the war might come closer to India, was looked upon as rather a crank, and indeed, almost as an alarmist. I have no doubt many people in Calcutta felt much the same then too, and this feeling was by no means peculiar to Indian cities for we are told that in England the A.R.P. services were looked upon as rather a nuisance in the early days before the air blitz started.

Well, the war *has* come closer to us now and closer still to Calcutta, whose citizens, as I have pointed out, have already had good reason to be thankful for the presence and efficiency of their Civil Defence Services—and by Civil Defence Services I mean the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the Red Cross, the Fire Services and the A.R.P.

So, too, there is now comfort in the knowledge that we in Madras, and in the larger towns in the Province, have a well-trained A.R.P. organization, an efficient fire-fighting service, and many thousands of trained first-aiders—capable of giving a good account of themselves should necessity arise.

We realize now that these organizations could not have been built up in a week or a month, and that it has needed much hard work and extensive organization to bring them to their present state of discipline and efficiency.

Of course, we all hope that South India will not be bombed; but "hoping" isn't going to stop the Japanese, and bombing is still a possibility against which it would be foolish not to be prepared.

PUBLIC AND CIVIL DEFENCE SERVICES

And so it is that the Civil Defence Services are receiving much co-operation from the public to-day than ever before. And I think people are giving that support for two main reasons. Firstly, so that our defences against enemy aerial attack, if it comes, may be as nearly one hundred per cent efficient as possible, though there are still some who do not yet realize that the Civil Defence of a city does not begin and end with the Civil Defence Services and cannot be complete without the full co-operation of every individual citizen. And secondly, because every member of these services is learning now, in more ways than one, to be a better citizen not only to-day but in the post-war India as well. For instance, they are learning the value of team work and of confidence in each other—and, better still, of confidence in themselves—the confidence which sound training gives. They are learning too of the satisfaction which is to be derived from thinking of other people rather than of themselves and from being able to help their fellow men by the application of their specialized knowledge.

The cynic may say that this picture is overdrawn, but the fact is that the qualities I have mentioned have been put to the test already on many occasions in Madras, and in each case the Civil Defence Services concerned have reacted splendidly. Here is one example:

ACCIDENT IN THE HARBOUR—A.R.P. TO THE RESCUE

A few months ago, whilst some men were working in the harbour premises in Madras, a heavy log of timber slipped and pinned two of the coolies against a wall. They were both very seriously injured. One had a compound fracture of the thigh with a torn main artery which bled profusely, and a broken leg as well. The other man had a compound fracture of the leg. Both men were suffering from severe shock and the first man would have died from loss of blood within two minutes of the accident unless someone applied first aid in less than that fraction of time. The co-workers of these two men were greatly shocked at what they all said was a very unpleasant sight, and, having no first aid training, could do nothing to help. Fortunately, two members of the Port A.R.P. First Aid Service, trained by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, were working in an office nearby, and hearing the commotion ran out to see what it was all about. These men cannot have enjoyed the spectacle either—it was their first sight of bad casualties—but they knew their duty, and they at once faced up to it. They must have been very promptly on the job because they had stopped the first man's hæmorrhage within less than two minutes of the occurrence of the accident and then, having completed their first aid, they got both men quickly off to hospital. The report of the doctor at the hospital was that the first aid given was exactly what it should have been.

VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING

That is certainly a good example of the practical result of the training these men are getting, but it is by no means an isolated one. There are many more instances where the A.R.P. services have demonstrated that in an emergency they are not only willing to take responsibility and act quickly, but are capable of putting their training to practical use; and furthermore, that that training is sound.

The old saying that "out of evil cometh good" is true. The war has resulted in thousands of men and women taking training, which they would not otherwise have taken, in first aid or home nursing, in fire fighting or rescue work, whilst at the same time acquiring knowledge and qualities of character which cannot fail to stand them and their country in good stead long after the war is over. Bombs or no bombs, raids or no raids, the contribution which the Civil Defence Services are making to the common cause demands the support of every one of us.

—A talk recently broadcast from All-India Radio, Madras.

Ten Years President of U.S.

Roosevelt's Work Reviewed

SINCE President Roosevelt was inaugurated on March 4, 1933, the United States Federal Government has developed a greater responsibility for the American people as individuals.

President Roosevelt brought to the White House with him the proposition that the Federal Government, in the last analysis, is responsible for the alleviation of the economic difficulties of the people.

The President's philosophy is: Everyone is entitled to a measure of security; insuring this is the legitimate function of the Government. The opportunity to work must be open to all. Education must be provided. Protection against sickness and old age is essential.

The President considers that these safeguards are in no sense charity. He is sure that, with these objects in mind, methods can be found.

At the time of his inauguration, following the unprecedented electoral vote of 472 to 59 in the national elections in 1932, President Roosevelt assumed the leadership of a country which was suffering under the worst financial depression in its history, with 12,000,000 unemployed.

Under the President's direction in 1933, Federal spending took a variety of forms—work relief, public works, public housing, rural electrification, the Tennessee Valley Authority. Farm purchasing power was stimulated by crop loans and production control.

The Wagner Act, which used Federal authority to guarantee to workers the right to organize without employer interference and to bargain collectively for higher wages and shorter hours, was another expression of the President's desire to augment the purchasing power of the nation from the bottom up.

With all this came such reforms as stock market control through the Securities and Exchange Law, rejuvenation of the anti-trust laws and tighter control of banks and other financial institutions.

Gradually a body of new legislation which extended Government control and financing into business, industry and agriculture was built up. Together, the agencies which administer these laws exercise enough control to make possible a form of Government planning.

(Continued on page 10)

BATTLE OF THE BISMARCK SEA

TEN YEARS PRESIDENT OF U.S.

Roosevelt's work reviewed

(Continued from page 8)

President Roosevelt's programme indicated that the Government could, by supplementing private economy, guarantee full employment in the future.

Reviewing the first session of Congress after his first inauguration, President Roosevelt said: " We were determined to help all those who needed help for recovery; we were equally determined to institute reform wherever reform was necessary to insure permanent in recovery."

On August 14, 1935, the Social Security Act was passed, providing old-age and unemployment insurance; aid to the needy, aged, dependent children and the blind; programmes for maternal and child welfare, vocational training and health. Throughout the President's administration the scope of this Act has been enlarged.

Other outstanding acts of President Roosevelt's administration are:

MARCH 24, 1934.—The Tydings-McDuffie Act, providing for Philippine independence after a ten-year transitional Commonwealth Government with a Philippine chief executive.

MAY 31, 1934.—The Senate ratified a treaty which ended the Platt Amendment (this amendment permitted United States intervention in Cuba).

JUNE 18, 1934.—The Indian Reorganization Act, giving 380,000 American Indians and Eskimos in the United States and Alaska added protection, aid for rehabilitation and a Magna Carta for self-government.

JUNE 27, 1934.—National Housing Act, which, together with later laws, provides better housing and loans which enable low-income families to own their homes and keep them repaired.

JULY 13, 1934.—The President created the National Resources Board to plan the best use of the nation's resources—succeeded by the National Resources Committee and the National Resources Planning Board.

MAY 1, 1935.—President Roosevelt created the Resettlement Administration for soil conservation and relief of low-income farmers.

MAY 6, 1935.—Works Progress Administration was created.

MAY 11, 1935.—Created the Rural Electrification Administration to electrify rural communities.

FOREIGN POLICY

From 1933 to 1939, when the war broke out in Europe, the United States Government, under President Roosevelt, directed much of its energies towards the improvement of international relations and thus towards the prevention of a breakdown of world peace.

In his inaugural address on March 4, 1933, President Roosevelt dedicated the United States to a policy of the Good Neighbour—" the neighbour who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others—the neighbour who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbours."

The foreign policy of the United States during the decade of President Roosevelt's leadership moved within the framework of a gradual evolution of public opinion—away from the idea of isolationism which was expressed in " neutrality " legislation.

Above all, the President, although he keeps the public informed, has been guided at all times by public opinion instead of foisting his own will upon them.

That the President saw the war coming and spoke freely to the people of the world of his knowledge is demonstrated in the following statements:—

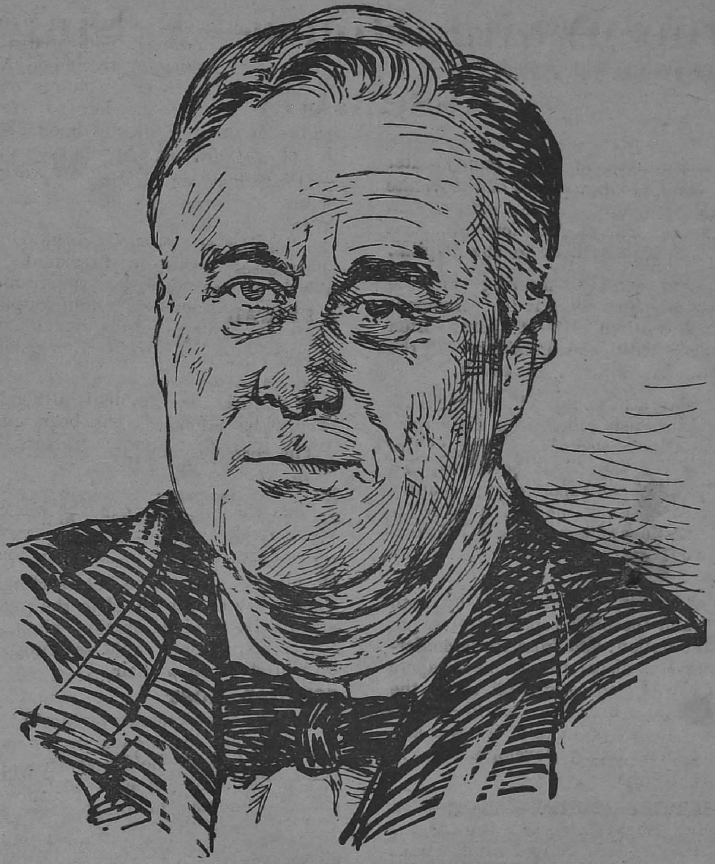
May 16, 1933 (speaking to Congress).—" It has become increasingly evident that the assurance of world political and economic peace and stability is threatened by selfish and short-sighted politics, action and threats of action."

January 3, 1934 (speaking to Congress).—" In other parts of the world—there is the fear of immediate or future aggression and, with this, the spending of vast sums on armaments and the continued building up of defensive trade barriers prevents any great progress in peace or trade agreements."

November 11, 1935 (soon after Italy invaded Ethiopia).—" The dangers which confront the future of mankind as a whole are greater to the world, and therefore to us, than the dangers which confront the people of the United States by and in themselves alone."

October 5, 1937 (in his " Quarantine the Aggressors " speech in Chicago soon after Japan renewed, her war on China).—" Without any declaration of war and without warning or justification of any kind, civilians, including women and children, are being ruthlessly murdered with bombs from the air. In times of so-called peace, ships are being attacked and sunk by submarines without cause or notice. Nations are fomenting and taking sides in civil war in nations that have never done them any harm. If those things come to pass in other parts of the world, let no one imagine that America will escape . . . War is contagion, whether it be declared or undeclared."

January 4, 1939 (speaking to Congress after Munich).—" The war which threatened to envelop the world in flames has been averted, but it has become increasingly clear that peace is not assured."



September 3, 1940 (telling Congress of the "destroyers for bases" trade with Great Britain).—"This is not inconsistency in any sense with our status of peace still less is it a threat against any nation. It is an epochal and far-reaching act of preparation for continental defence in the face of great danger."

December 29, 1940 (talking to the nation).—"Our experiences of the past two years have proven beyond doubt that no nation can appease the Nazis. No man can tame a tiger into a kitten by stroking it. There can be no appeasement with ruthlessness. There can be no reasoning with an incendiary bomb. We must be a great arsenal of democracy. For this is an emergency as serious as war itself."

January 6, 1941 (speaking to Congress).—"When the dictators are ready to make war upon us, they will not wait for an act of war on our part."

May 27, 1941 (after declaring an unlimited national emergency).—"When your enemy comes at you in a tank or a bombing plane, if you hold your fire until you see the whites of his eyes you will never know what hit you . . ."

December 8, 1941 (to Congress).—"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by the naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan . . . With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain an inevitable triumph—so help us God."

December 15, 1941 (the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the American Bill of Rights).—"We have made a covenant with each other before all the world that, having taken up arms in the defence of liberty, we will not lay them down before liberty is once again secure in the world in which we live . . ."

"We have learned that we cannot maintain peace at this stage of human development by good intentions alone . . . The United Nations can and must remain united for the maintenance of peace by preventing any attempt to re-arm in Germany, Japan, Italy or any other nation which seeks to violate the Tenth Commandment, 'Thou shalt not covet.'"

At the White House—A Singular Assembly

TWICE each week in the roomy outer lobby of the Executive offices of the White House in Washington, there gathers an assemblage so singularly American that it often startles foreign visitors to the Capital.

It is the semi-weekly meeting of the Washington newspaper and radio correspondents—never less than 100 of them, often more than 300—with the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Every Tuesday afternoon and every Friday morning the journalists crowd into the private office of the nation's elected leader, ply him with searching and significant questions, and obtain a frank and open report on the country as it is affected both by the war and by its manifold domestic problems. Only information which would aid or comfort the enemy is withheld.

There is a healthy examination, by both the President and the press representatives, of the state of the nation, and from those conferences emanate the dispatches to newspapers and radio news broadcasters all over the country—indeed all over the world—which recount the day-to-day progress of the war and the variety of newsworthy developments in America.

RADIO AND PRESS CONFERENCE

There are two ways in which President Roosevelt has given the people a keen insight into the affairs of the United States. First, he has made wide use of the extraordinary radio broadcasting and reception facilities throughout the nation. Hardly a family in America is without a radio reception set or a neighbour who will share one with them. President Roosevelt's famous " fireside chats " in peace time, and his radio reports to the nation since the outbreak of war, have served to bring the average American citizen a complete report of the activities of the Administration he has elected to govern him.

Second, President Roosevelt, far more thoroughly than any of his predecessors in the White House, has utilized the unique channel of information to the public made possible by the custom of the semi-weekly press conferences.

The newspaper men and women begin assembling about half an hour before conference time, in the lobby of the Executive offices, which form a wing of the White House. They while away the time until their meeting with the President, lounging in the big comfortable leather-covered chairs and couches that line the walls, or standing in groups exchanging opinions on the news of the day.

The hour for the conference is now at hand —and newspaper edition time for many of these correspondents is close. In nearby Washington offices and distant cities, editors are keeping telegraph wires open, holding up the presses, waiting for the President's news. The impatient newsmen mill about the lobby.

A SIGNAL

Now the President sounds his buzzer. He is ready for the press. One of the White House attaches claps his hands twice—a signal over the ears that the President is waiting for the correspondents.

The correspondents, as they crowd into the room, remain standing. Only the President, his Press Secretary, Stephen Early, the press conference stenographer, and two or three White House aides are seated. Occasionally the President has a guest at the conferences. On his first visit to the White House Winston Churchill was introduced to the press and was given a tremendous ovation when, so that all the correspondents could see him, he hopped up and stood on a chair.

CORDIAL HOST

As the correspondents stream into the room, the President leans back in his swivel chair, his long cigarette holder at an angle, emphasizing the strong line of his chin. If it is summer he may be in shirt sleeves, one of which bears the monogram F.D.R. He exchanges pleasantries with the first arrivals, greeting most of the men by their first names; noting, perhaps, the new hat of the one of the women reporters, or jesting with an old friend for putting on weight.

As the last reporter enters the room, a White House aide gives the traditional signal " All in ", and the conference begins.

The President may open the interview by announcing some new policy or executive action. He may comment on the most important development in the news of the day, or he may simply say " No news to-day ", and invite questions from his audience. These questions are all oral. The queries range from national and international affairs of great moment to issues local to some small corner of the nation.

Soon the questions are flying fast and furiousy. It takes an agile mind to deal with this barrage. But the President meets the inquisition head-on and makes no effort to conceal his pleasure in dealing deftly with some delicate query. He regards the rough-and-tumble exchange of repartee as a test of his own mental alertness, and frequently at the end of a conference, he will turn to Stephen Early and ask: " How did I do? "

(Continued on page 14)

THE EIGHTH ARMY ENTERS TRIPOLI

At the Castel Benito Gate into Tripoli, the Lieutenant-Governor of Libya, Commander Sen Marco, the Prefect and Lord Mayor of Tripoli, met General Montgomery. He dictated his terms and the city was formally surrendered. The Italian Police were to remain in control, and British Military Police would co-operate with them. There would be no interference with the civilian population, but no treachery would be tolerated. The local authorities were to supply food, water and light to the civilian population.

Men of the Gordon Highlanders march into Tripoli behind their Pipe Major and piper. The harbour is seen in the background.

Valentine tanks passing through the streets of Tripoli, watched by crowds of British troops and local inhabitants.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE—A SINGULAR ASSEMBLY

(Continued from page 12)

FOUR CATEGORIES

The information given to the press by the President at these conferences falls into four categories. The bulk of the news may be attributed to the President in the third person. The text of his remarks may be used but not in direct quotation. Thus the reporters may write: "President Roosevelt said to-day that he will ask Congress for a new army appropriation next week."

Occasionally the President permits direct quotations. When this is done, a prepared statement is issued at the White House. The third category of information is the "background" data the President supplies the press, for use without being attributed to him. And frequently helpful information is given in reports "off the record," as confidential background not to be published at all, but merely for guidance, so that the press will understand a given situation.

There is a fifth category of the statements made by the President, that in which he answers an ill-advised question by a humorous exaggeration. Thus, when United States Army bombers raided Tokyo and other Japanese industrial centres, President Roosevelt, asked where the planes had been based, replied "Shangri-La." "Shangri-La," as all the reporters well knew, is a mythical country created by the novelist James Hilton in a widely read book of fiction called "Lost Horizon."

But back to a typical conference. The last question has been asked. There is a moment's pause and then one of the older reporters, acting as spokesman for his colleagues, says: "Thank you, Mr. President."

This is a signal for a surge even more hectic than the push to enter the room. For now the correspondents, particularly those representing telegraph news services, rush to the telephones in the press room, a comfortable little office in one corner of the executive offices, reserved for the use of the newsmen.

A dozen or more reporters are assigned constantly to the White House by the press associations and larger metropolitan newspapers. These men meet daily with Secretary Early, who informs them of White House doings. They may also question each visitor to the President as to the purpose of his visit.

Anglo-American Aid to Russia

By LUIS ARQUISTAIN

SEVEN thousand tanks, 4,000 aeroplanes and 17,000 guns, which, according to the recent statement made by M. Stalin, the Germans have lost during the three months of the Russian counter-offensive this winter are very impressive figures. They suggest indirectly the enormous amount of war material which the Soviet army had to use to achieve such a great destruction of German forces.

We do not know the figures of the Russian war production but their output must have remained very high in spite of the loss of their best industrial centres during the German advance. Recently, other figures have been published which help to explain the present offensive power of the Russian army. According to Mr. Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Great Britain and the United States sent to Russia from October 1941 to the end of 1942, 6,000 tanks, 5,600 aeroplanes and 85,000 lorries. This is nearly as many tanks as those lost by the Germans and 1,600 aeroplanes more.

The enormous number of lorries supplied also explains the extraordinary mobility of the Russian army in spite of the loss of vital rail communications and rolling stock.

There must be added to these supply figures hundreds of thousands tons of machinery, tools, ammunition, foodstuffs and small arms that have also been sent to Russia. The exact total figure, according to Mr. Lyttelton, Minister of Production, had reached up to July to over 190,000 tons of the 250,000 tons promised. It may well be supposed that by now the promise made has been completely fulfilled.

GREAT BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION

Of the consignments mentioned above Great Britain alone supplied 2,974 tanks and over 3,000 aeroplanes. This implies a very large tonnage for transport and a considerable number of warships to convoy the merchantmen over such dangerous routes.

Thanks to these immense Anglo-American supplies added to her own, not to mention the inestimable valour of her own soldiers, Russia has been able to inflict on the Nazi military colossus one of the most serious defeats that any army has ever suffered. The importance of this co-operation does not lie only in the quantity but also in the order of preferential priority.

While Russia was receiving these materials, making it possible for her to prepare her victorious counter-offensive, the British army under Auchinleck had to retreat last summer to the Egyptian frontier because of lack of armaments.

In so far as there has been priority in the distribution of war material and reinforcements, this has probably not been in favour of the African theatre of war. During the last few days we have reason to believe that the Allied retreat in some sectors of the Tunisian front was due to the superiority of enemy armaments.

Yet it is known that there has been a gigantic increase in Anglo-Saxon war production. Even as far back as March 1942, the United Kingdom was producing double the number of tanks compared with August 1941. In June 1942, the production of tanks, lorries and other mechanised vehicles was at the rate of 257,000 a year. In August 1942, the British army had at its disposal half a million vehicles whereas at the beginning of the war it only had 45,000.

It is, however, certain that up to the end of 1942, production had not reached a sufficiently high level to supply everything necessary for the various fronts and that in allocation, the Rnssian front was one of the most favoured. The current year will be a year in which the Anglo-American production will not only be sufficient but will exceed all demands. Meanwhile, Hitler is choosing to supply his African forces even at the cost of sacrificing his armies in Russia. For Hitler, at the present moment, the Anglo-American campaign is more vital than the Russian. By holding up the Allies in the Tunisian sector, he hopes to gain time to extend his defences along those coasts of Europe most exposed to future invasion.

HITLER FEARS EUROPEAN REVOLT

He fears that as soon as the Anglo-American armies put their feet on the European soil the whole occupied western and southern Europe will rise as one man against him. Hence his desperate attempt to prolong the war in Africa.

The latest news is that Hitler is concentrating troops along the French coast of the Gulf of Lions from Marseilles to the Pyrenees. Some consider that this is a new threat against Spain. My own opinion, which I have repeated many times, is that neutral Spain is what at the present time would be most convenient for Hitler.

As in Russia his greatest desire in the rest of Europe is to shorten his internal lines in order more easily to be able to defend them. But this is equivalent to " locking the stable door . . ."

Sweat Can Beat Steel

By SAMUEL GRAFTON

LET us note that the Russians won their remarkable successes in street fighting—at Stalingrad, Rostov and Kharkov—without using those modern weapons, the tank and the airplane. The big street fights have been won by sweat and on foot.

This is a blow to the conception that man's fate is being determined exclusively by machines that cost a lot to build and make a great deal of noise.

It is now the official Russian theory, expressed by several commanders in press interviews, that the tank is useless in fighting within a city. It has been decisively defeated time after time by adequately armed men on foot. One Russian commander tells, with something like a snicker, how the Germans, blindly relying on tanks, tried to use as many as 400 at one time in crowded, narrow streets, only to be jammed, stalled and beaten back by unmounted and unarmoured men.

BAFFLED ENEMY AVIATION

In Stalingrad, the Russians baffled enemy aviation by the expedient of deliberately pitching their lines so close to the enemy as to make bombing too risky. We might, by straining a little, say that many Germans were lost in big cities partly because of their old-fashioned, conservative reliance on tanks and airplanes.

Thus does the brilliant strategic conception of last year become the brasshat ism of to-day. The Germans are being whipped by superior conceptions, just as they whipped the French by the same means. Among the new ideas, big and little, which were recently uncorked by the Russians, is the one that a city can lose its usefulness as a residence centre and as a production centre without losing its usefulness as a fortress.

It has been said that ideas are weapons and, at Stalingrad, one idea for which a use was made was to direct artillery fire from a radio station, snugged up against the enemy lines and therefore difficult for the enemy to shell, while keeping the Russian artillery on the far side of the Volga River and therefore out of reach of German tanks.

HAND TO HAND FIGHTING

Among the " modern " ideas from which some of the shine has been taken in Russia is the one that the soldier of to-day never

really makes a physical contact with the enemy, that he rides in a splendid, remote, Wagnerian glory in vehicles of steel, blitzing, surprising, surrounding and encircling. It would be folly to deny the value of armour and motorization; the Russians made vast use of both and would have been lost long ago without them. They also walked their feet off; the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad was encircled with the help of one Russian Army which is reported to have walked 200 kilometers.

As for contact with the enemy, the Russians have liked it as close as possible, often hand-to-hand; so close, it is reported from Stalingrad, that German and Russian soldiers would sometimes find themselves jumping into the same shell-hole to dodge a blast.

It is a remarkable fact that the most decisive battles of this most modern war have rehabilitated hand-to-hand infantry fighting and the long walk through snow.

The Melitopol Line

By The Military Correspondent of *Daily Telegraph*

THERE is nothing definite yet to indicate where Hitler hopes to stabilize the Russian front.

There are two factors which must govern the German strategy of withdrawal. First, the line must provide for the deepest possible outpost zone in the south in front of the vital Rumanian oilfields of Ploesti.

Second, the line must be shorter than that which the Germans hold at present, thus permitting an economy of force.

As to the first of these factors, it is estimated that the Germans' minimum requirements for full-scale mechanized war on the Russian front, together with such side issues as the campaign in Tunisia, are 11 million tons of oil per year.

Of this, they reckon to obtain 6 million tons from the Rumanian fields, 4 million from the home production of synthetic oil, balancing their budget as to the remaining one million by miscellaneous expedients such as the use of producer gas.

GERMANS AND THE CRIMEA

It is quite clear, therefore, that Hitler, now that his dreams of Caucasian oil have vanished, cannot afford to permit Russian bombers to be based any nearer to Ploesti than he can possibly avoid.

This conclusion immediately raises the question: Do the Germans intend to stay in the Crimea?

If they do, then the line which they must intend to hold is that from Melitopol to Zaporozhe which covers only the railway into and out of the Crimea. From Zaporozhe such a line might run along the Dnieper in front of Kiev and thence through the Pripet marshes to Minsk and Riga.

This would be a shortened line, very much shortened when reckoned in the saving of troops which the Germans would effect in the Pripet sector.

If the Germans cannot hold this line—and the Russian thrust towards the Dnieper bend at Dnepropetrovosk already seriously threatens it—then they could find even a shorter line from Odessa to Kiev and thence to Riga as before.

PLOESTI AND SOVIET BASES

But this very big withdrawal to this line would involve either the evacuation of the Crimea or its complete isolation, together with the establishment of Russian air bases within 350 miles of Ploesti.

We may be sure, therefore, that the Germans will hold the Melitopol line forward of the Crimea if it is humanly possible.

We may be equally sure that they have already prepared a line to which they may now withdraw.

This is a precaution which they do not neglect even at a moment of victory: witness their preparation of the Aisne line in 1914 when they were still advancing to Marne.

To the Troops!

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Russian Drive to Kiev

THE Russian push due west to the still distant Kiev should be coupled with the German reported opening of the offensive in the Sukhinichi area, 75 miles north of Bryansk.

Elaborating on this attack, Berlin said that heavy air battles are raging, the Russians having mobilized a big air umbrella for their land offensive.

It may be that our Allies have decided that the time has come to begin an offensive designed to encompass the upper as well as the lower reaches of the Dnieper. The enemy has committed all his reserves of men and metal that he can lay his hands on to stop the Russian drive. To a considerable extent, he has succeeded doing so, though whether this is a permanent or only a temporary success the next week or two will show. At any rate the Russians may have calculated that he has now to hold the Smolensk-Bryansk-Orel-Konotop salient with the men he has on the spot. This seems quite likely to be the explanation for the two new Russian thrusts both of which are prospering.

FROM NARROW TO BROAD GAUGE

In the Ukraine and the Donbas, German counter-attacks are continuing with undiminished fury and at high cost to the enemy. But their undoubted success in keeping a way of escape open for the retreating German army is not alone due to the strength of the enemy attacks. During the past week, there have been many flurries of light snow over the battlefield which have slowed down Soviet tank and motorized coloumns by reducing visibility to nil. Another handicap to the Russians has been the necessity to change back the many hundreds of miles of captured railway from narrow to broad gauge to take their supply trains.

—*Daily Express*—Moscow correspondent.

Russia's Food Problem

THE recapture of the northern Caucasus and large parts of the Ukraine promises to relieve some of the important bottlenecks in Russia's war economy.

The relief will be more marked in agriculture than in industry. In the northern Caucasus alone, the Russians have regained a vast granary, some 30 odd million acres.

What this means to the Russian food position can be seen from the fact that last year's expansion of sown area in the east, which was to make good the temporary losses in agricultural areas, amounted to no more than 5,000,000 acres.

Apart from cereals, the northern Caucasus used to produce 30 per cent of Russia's tobacco and almost the whole of the remainder was grown in Crimea.

With the recapture of some Ukrainian territory, the Russians get back their sugar and beet.

The first measures taken in the regained areas are preparations for the spring sowing. Tractors and agricultural machinery formerly evacuated are being sent back to the liberated country side.

MOST IMPORTANT ASSET

The metal industries of Kharkov, Rostov, Stalingrad, Voroshilovgrad, etc., have been evacuated to the east together with their skilled and semi-skilled workers during the Russian retreats. In spite of much boasting, the Germans achieved very little in restoring such minor factories as had not been evacuated. It is doubtful whether the Soviets will decide to move, for instance, the Stalingrad and Kharkov tractor plants from Sverdlovsk and Chelyabinsk in the Urals back to the old sites.

Apart from the destruction in the fighting zones, which would impede production, the very process of a retransfer would cause undesirable dislocation and delays in the output of arms and munitions. Transport position, on the other hand, would be improved by partial re-shifting. Farther the armies advance, larger grows the distance between the production centres and front lines. It is, therefore, likely that factories producing lighter types of armament will once again be "leap-frogged," this time to the west. The most important economic asset is, of course, the Donetz coal.

—*The Observer.*

Turkey's "Defensive Security"

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THERE has been much speculation about Adana. One thing is certain—that Turkey has not been asked to enter the war on the side of the United Nations, that never was there throughout the conference the slightest hint of that. Nor had Turkey to bind herself in any way to do so at a later date.

For the first time in many war years, Turkey has not insisted on having the words "neutrality" or "other existing obligations and friendships" included in the text of the communiqué issued after the conference. Instead we find that Britain and the United States will do everything to reinforce Turkey's "defensive security."

What is meant by Turkey's "defensive security"? To well-informed observers in Ankara these words have more than their immediate meaning. It is obvious that when great people like Mr. Churchill come to Turkey to talk to the President of the Republic, he has something really important to say. And when a full communiqué is issued it means that decisions have been taken. We have several clues on which to work. In the first place, the words "defensive security." Then Mr. Churchill himself has told us from Cyprus that the danger to the Middle East having passed, the Tenth Army can now be released for duty elsewhere. Thirdly we know that history has a habit of repeating itself.

GUARDING THE MIDDLE EAST

Two years ago, an unarmed Turkey, watching the German steam-roller levelling South-Eastern Europe, was waiting with anxiety as the German menace approached its borders. On March 1, 1941, German troops marched into Bulgaria and were preparing to attack Greece. Turkey was awaiting her turn with resignation, but with the determination to stand and fight, not to go down in shame and dishonour. Turkey did not have much of a chance against the formidable aggressor which was the Germany of 1941. But her diplomats got to work and Turkey managed to avoid war. Turkey stood like a barrier against the aggressor and helped to guard the Middle East against the Axis.

It looks as if Turkey will now have to repeat her part. She has not been asked at Adana to enter the war but decisions have been taken to reinforce her defensive security. The danger of attack from the Caucasus has passed, and so has the danger from Libya. Mr. Churchill, although he has not mentioned Turkey, has made it understood that there is no chance of Turkey ever letting the Germans come through Anatolia. By doing so he has more than defined Turkey's attitude in the future.

TURKEY OF TO-DAY

Hitler, however, is like a cat shut up in a room with a man chasing it with a stick. You know what cats do in these circumstances. They scratch and hiss, and then they jump and attack the pursuer in a desperate effort to be free. The tamest cat becomes wild and dangerous. Hitler may also become dangerous and, seeing that the game is up, he may attack anywhere. Anywhere means also Spain and Portugal, or any other neutral country like Sweden or Turkey. But if Turkey is reinforced, he would think twice about it. The Turkey of to-day is not the Turkey of 1941; reinforced immediately from the huge arsenal of the United Nations, she is a formidable enemy, especially to a country like Germany whose forces are steadily weakening. By keeping Germany away from the Middle East, Turkey will have not only looked after her own defensive security, but after that of the whole Middle East. If the peoples of Iraq and Persia can return to their normal peacetime occupations a minute sooner than others, it will be due to Turkey. So much for the strategic side of the talks, of which we really do not know much.

The political side is also extremely interesting. In the communiqué we see that agreement has been reached on certain post-war problems as they interest Turkey in the so-called "Turkish sphere of interest." In order to reach such an agreement, it is obvious that Turco-Russian relations have been cleared and straightened. This is extremely important, because it takes away from the Axis the only trump card they possess against Turkey. Von Papen will shake his brains in vain to produce another bogey.

TURKEY AND THE BALKANS

Turkey, we know, is greatly interested in the future political configuration of the Balkans. The Prime Minister, M. Sarajoglu, told the correspondent of a British newspaper recently that Turkey would welcome any suggestions from Balkan countries or about the Balkans which might open the road to a new co-operation of the Balkan States with Turkey. Turkey's policy in the Balkans, he said, had been one of the main pivots of her foreign policy before the present war and might still remain so after this war, provided of course that the Balkans remained an independent bloc.

If assurances have been given to Turkey at Adana in this respect—and it looks so, for otherwise Turkey would not have agreed even on the tentative lines on which I presume the problem was discussed—then we can assume that Turkey will be called to play a very important part in this sector of the European continent by reorganizing and leading the Balkan nations. Turkey is best fitted to do so, because she has remained the only sound, powerful and independent political organism in South-East Europe. Not only will she be fulfilling an important mission as far as the Balkans are concerned, but she will also be complying with directives laid down in the Ataturk's political testament. It must not be forgotten that while he lived the Ataturk always told the Turks to look towards the west.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(*Continued from page* 6)

ROMMEL would have been isolated from ARNIM'S forces; his communications would have been threatened in the rear, while he was facing MONTGOMERY in the front. This, however, did not happen, because superior Axis communications enabled ROMMEL to make the attempt at splitting his opponents.

* * * *

India and the War—Sound Economic Position Disclosed by Central Budget. INDIA'S Fourth War Budget was discussed threadbare in the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Council of State for a number of days. A few general points stand out clearly as a result of the discussions. They are as follows: Though INDIA is bearing an increasing burden on account of the war, her financial position is fundamentally sound. The revenue deficit of Rs. 94·66 crores for the current year and a prospective deficit of Rs. 60·28 crores for the next year on the basis of existing taxation, will no doubt entail considerable hardship and sacrifice, but there are also long-term benefits. The problem of agricultural indebtedness is not so much of a problem now, on account of the rising agricultural prices; INDIA'S external debt is almost gone; and INDIA has large funds with which she can finance the improvement of her industries in future.

In splitting up, for the first time, the Defence expenditure into revenue and capital account, the Budget gives a better showing of the financial situation. The capital expenditure for Defence in 1942–43 amounted to Rs. 49·14 crores, and the importance of this will be realised when it is pointed out that aerodromes, outlay on industrial expansion, and units of the Royal Indian Navy constitute permanent assets of immense value to post-war India.

In his speech introducing the Budget, SIR JEREMY RAISMAN said, "Our sheet-anchor in the present emergency must be more and more borrowing." It may be stated that the total investments in Defence Loans and provincial loans amounted to Rs. 93 crores for last year. The total investments since the beginning of the war aggregated to Rs. 267½ crores. The Finance Member has appealed to the public to defer private expenditure to the utmost of one's capacity and transfer the surplus to Government in the form of loans. By responding to this appeal to the greatest extent possible, the public will be helping the Government to solve the problem of high prices of essential commodities. As regards inflation, the Finance Member pointed out that at no time did the Government resort to credit inflation and that the present temporary situation was due to an increase in the volume of purchasing power impinging, for a time, on a stationary or diminishing volume of consumable goods. Regarding the food problem itself, the Central Government have announced that they will be purchasing food grains worth Rs. 75 crores in 1943–44 on behalf of Provincial Governments.

Another notable feature of the Budget is the constitution of a Reconstruction Fund. Referring to this, Mr. C. E. JONES, Finance Secretary—he was formerly Secretary of the Finance Department in Madras—said in the Council of State on Wednesday (March 10) that INDIA would welcome such a Fund, because it would ensure a systematic and orderly flow of her capital needs in the post-war period, which will be a period of acute scarcity the world over. The Fund will finance a programme of post-war reconstruction, which will include the rehabilitation and re-equipment of industries in INDIA.

There has also been a good deal of discussion over the accumulation of sterling balances. As the Finance Member pointed out, the sterling balances will be available as a reserve to pay for capital goods which BRITAIN will be supplying for INDIA'S industrial expansion and it would enable INDIA to trade as one of the principal commercial countries of the world.

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Diary of the War

ENGLAND AND GERMANY

3rd Mar.—There was a one-hour gun duel across the English Channel.

Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, stated in the Lords: "The British policy is to build ships carrying the maximum cargo with the greatest possible safety."

Aircraft of the Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters and attacked objectives in Western Germany. Railway and other targets were also attacked in North France and Belgium.

4th Mar.—There were two raids (a Nazi reprisal for the heavy raid on Berlin by the R.A.F.) when bombs were dropped in East Anglia, the Home Counties and London area.

The R.A.F. made a heavy raid on Hamburg (Germany's second biggest city and her biggest U-boat building centre). Objectives and targets were also attacked in Northern France, Holland and Knaben in Norway.

5th Mar.—Admiral Boehm, Commander of the German fleet in Norwegian waters, was dismissed.

6th Mar.—The R.A.F. attacked objectives in Western Germany. Goering's Air Ministry Building in Berlin was damaged during a raid. Dunkirk area was also bombed.

7th Mar.—Objectives in Brest and Lorient were attacked by the R.A.F.

The German Radio admitted: "The last British raid on Berlin has caused important damage in the German capital."

8th Mar.—The R.A.F. bombed Heligoland and American aircraft attacked targets at Rouen and Rennes.

London's "Wings for Victory" effort reached the total of £44,677,135, including a million sterling from the Imperial Chemical Industries.

One E-boat was destroyed and others scattered in a short naval action off the east coast of England.

9th Mar.—The R.A.F. attacked Nuremberg and objectives in Northern France.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

3rd Mar.—Addressing a mass meeting in New York, Madame Chiang-Kai-shek said that the greatest task confronting the United Nations was to safeguard themselves against "retrogression into another dark age."

Members of the Higher Council of the American Democrat National Committee recommended to President Roosevelt that he should be the Party's candidate for the 1944 Presidential election (for the fourth term) if the war was still on.

General H. S. Arnold, Chief of the United States Army Air Forces, declared: "We must make provisions for a wide-scale bombing of Japan itself—bombing to ensure total destruction of the enemy on his own home soil."

Admiral Sir Percy Noble, Head of the British Admiralty Delegation in Washington, declared that the success of the anti-submarine campaign was encouraging.

The former U.S. Ambassador to Japan and now Special Assistant to the Secretary of State, speaking at Atlanta (Georgia), declared: "We must watch vigilantly for dangerous signs of a German or Japanese peace offensive designed to let us win the war but lose the peace."

4th Mar.—The U.S. Government sent a note to Great Britain, indicating its whole-hearted concurrence and co-operation in any steps towards immediate aid for Jews in Europe. [The British Government undertook to receive in Palestine up to 29,000 Jewish children with a proportion of adults.]

Col. Knox, U.S. Secretary of the Navy, disclosed an operating force plan, calling for a Navy "big enough to dominate all the seas"—a programme for building up personnel to the strength of two and a quarter million by July 1944.

5th Mar.—Mr. Patterson, acting Secretary for War, disclosed that more than 70,000 aircraft bombs of 1,000 pounds or larger were produced by American industry in January.

6th Mar.—Col. Frank Knox, U.S. Secretary for Navy, disclosed that 150 warships and 1,400 navy aircraft were produced in February.

Madame Chiang-Kai-shek urged that the United States should send an expeditionary force to China to show the world that the United States meant business.

7th Mar.—The *New York Times*, commenting on recent Allied successes said: "Except in minor phases, the offensive has been wrested everywhere from the Axis."

8th Mar.—The Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Sumner Welles, said that one of the elements of the United States policy was the unconditional surrender and complete disarmament of Japan.

On January 23 the Eighth Army occupied Tripoli. Indian prisoners of war captured during the fighting around and in Tobruk escaped from the cage when the Eighth Army were nearing Tripoli. Picture shows them preparing to go back to the base.

9th Mar.—Mr. Henry Wallace, Vice-President of the United States, said that unless the Western Democracies and Russia came to a satisfactory understanding before the war ended, a World War III would be inevitable.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

3rd Mar.—The R.A.F. attacked objectives at Sagaing.

Ten enemy fighters appeared over Chittagong but turned back before the R.A.F. could engage them.

4th Mar.—The United States Office of War Information said that India was being strengthened with the aid of Lend-Lease as the source of supply for the Allied armies in China, India and the Middle East.

Speaking in the House of Lords, Lord Cranborne (Leader of the House) said that air transport to China was being increased but "no radical improvement could be expected until the reconquest of Burma made the Burma Road to China once more available. That must remain the primary object of our strategy."

5th Mar.—One enemy supply vessel was captured in the mouth of the Mayu river and prisoners were taken. United States aircraft bombed enemy installations in the Rangoon area. Pazundaung bridge was also hit and damaged.

6th Mar.—The R.A.F. attacked the railway yards at Thazi junction. One enemy fighter was destroyed.

7th Mar.—Mandalay railway station was attacked by the R.A.F. Buildings were demolished and fires were started.

8th Mar.—The Tenth United States Air Force sunk or damaged three Japanese merchant vessels in Rangoon river. The R.A.F. attacked Auktaungbyin, 40 miles north of Akyab.

9th Mar.—Small Japanese units infiltrated westward from the Kaladan river and took up positions along a forest ridge between Kanzauk and Auktaungbyin.

10th Mar.—American aircraft attacked Prome. According to reliable sources, the Japanese had concentrated large forces in Burma.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

3rd Mar.—It was revealed that Rommel had developed defences along the Mareth Line in greater depth. Allied forces advanced beyond Sbeitla.

Palermo harbour was bombed.

4th Mar.—Axis armies retreated on the whole of Central Tunisia, having suffered enormous losses. In the Beja and Bon Arada sectors, the Axis lost about 40 assault tanks.

American aircraft attacked Messina in Sicily.

Mussolini withdrew the Italian army from Russia (as a sequel to Ribbentrop's visit to Rome).

An enemy convoy was attacked in the Central Mediterranean. According to a British Admiralty Communiqué, seven Axis vessels were destroyed and nine damaged.

5th Mar.—French forces under General Juin, Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in North Africa occupied two important points in the Gapsa area. General von Arnim's attack on Beja was broken. Three German attacks were repulsed. Two Axis bombers were brought down by the R.A.F. over the sea near Malta.

It was officially announced in London that since Italy came into the war, 527 Axis vessels were sunk or damaged by Allied aircraft in the Mediterranean alone.

6th Mar.—The American troops took Pichon. Nazis were driven back to Faid Pass, gateway to the Central Tunisian plain.

7th Mar.—Rommel, who started a new offensive, failed to penetrate General Montgomery's line at any point.

8th Mar.—Rommel's attack on the Eighth Army ended in complete failure and cost the Germans a heavy toll of men and armour. The French troops occupied Redeyet.

It was revealed that as a result of R.A.F. raids, over 6,000 houses were destroyed in Genoa.

9th Mar.—The French troops occupied Tozeur. Axis troops were repulsed near Tamera. Palermo in Sicily was bombed. Axis aircraft raided Tripoli.

10th Mar.—Axis troops were contacted in Sedjenane area. It was reported that Mussolini was preparing to evacuate Sicily.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

3rd Mar.—The Nazis evacuated Rzhev, an important point in Moscow Sector. Lgov and Dimitri-Lgovsk were captured by the Russians.

4th Mar.—The German Radio admitted that the Red Army had made "local breaches" in the flanks of the front surrounding Orel. The Russians launched a new drive in the direction of Smolensk.

The Helsinki Radio said: "What we want is peace with security. As Moscow keeps silent, we are unable to know what Russia wants."

5th Mar.—Russian troops closed in on Vyasma. Marshal Timoshenko launched an attack on Staraya Russa. In their advances beyond Rzhev, the Russians captured 52 more towns and villages.

A new Finnish Government was formed with M. Edwin Linkomies as Prime Minister and M. Henrik Ramsay as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

It was revealed that since the start of the Russo-German war, the Red Navy had sunk 771 German merchantmen and warships and damaged 216 other vessels.

6th Mar.—The Russians advanced on Vyasma and Smolensk. The German Radio reported a new Russian attempt to land from the sea at the Black Sea port of Novorossisk.

7th Mar.—The Nazis withdrew in Ilmen area. The Russians captured Gzhatsk.

The Moscow Radio announced that by an official decree, M. Stalin had been created Marshal of the Soviet Union.

8th Mar.—The Russians captured Sychevka, north of Vyasma. The enemy lost in killed alone about 8,000 officers and men. The wedge driven into the German lines at Sevsk, threatening the Briansk-Kiev railway, was widened.

9th Mar.—The fall of Vyasma was imminent. Several Nazi counter-attacks were thrown back west of Rostov.

10th Mar.—The Russians evacuated Krasnograd, Lozovaya, Pavlograd, Krasnoarmeiskaya, Kramatorskaya, Barvenkovo, Slavyansk and Lissichansk. In the regions south and west of Kharkov, German troops suffered heavy losses.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

8th Mar.—President M. Ismet Ineunu was unanimously re-elected President of Turkey by the Seventh Turkish Grand National Assembly.

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SHIPPING

6th Mar.—A Brazilian passenger ship *Affonso* and a Brazilian freighter *Brasiloide* were torpedoed.

7th Mar.—An American cruiser *Astoria* was launched in Philadelphia. Two ships, the *Blueridge* and the *Rocky Mountains* were launched in Kearney.

9th Mar.—A number of German cargo ships scuttled themselves at Marmagoa (owing to differences among the crew on the question of making a dash to Singapore).

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VICHY AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

5th Mar.—Germany's Man-Power Chief, Sauckal, arrived in France to take charge of recruiting workers for Germany.

6th Mar.—Eight German officers and men were killed in Oslo by Norwegian patriots. Mass arrests of farmers were carried out.

8th Mar.—According to the Morocco Radio, General Giraud, the High Commissioner for North Africa, dismissed M. Bouni, the departmental head in North African administration. General Giraud announced that the Vichy Anti-Jewish decrees were invalid in North Africa.

9th Mar.—Disorders broke out in Belgrade and Zagreb.

A Fighting French spokesman said that the Nazis had embarked on a policy designed to exterminate the French race.

Twenty-three German officers were killed by guerilla fighters at Lille.

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THE FAR EAST

3rd Mar.—There was a daylight raid on Port Darwin. Four Japanese ships were sunk or damaged by United States bombers off New Guinea.

4th Mar.—The Battle of Bismarck Sea was fought and won by the Allies. The victory was of such completeness as to assume the proportions of a major disaster to the enemy. The Japanese entire force which consisted of 22 vessels—12 transports and 10 warships (cruisers and destroyers)—was completely destroyed. Fifty-two enemy aircraft were shot down; 15,000 ground forces (destined to attack New Guinea) were drowned or killed.

The Chinese counter-attacked in North Kiangsi, pushing the Japanese 80 miles eastward.

5th Mar.—The remnants of the enemy convoy of 22 ships were wiped out. Twenty-seven more Japanese planes were shot down. The " Suicide Alley "—Itiaz Straits between New Britain and New Guinea, was, according to an Allied pilot, " a tangle of sinking boats and drowning Japanese." Ship after ship went down and the Japs in lifeboats were machine-gunned. Reuter's special correspondent rounded off his report with: " The sun went down on a scene of chaos."

Japanese positions in Kiska were attacked.

The Japanese were pushed back on all fronts in China. Four hundred of them were killed in North Kiangsi province.

6th Mar.—It was revealed that 151 Japanese warships had been sunk in the Pacific since Pearl Harbour.

Two Japanese destroyers were sunk in the Solomons.

7th Mar.—Mr. John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister, said that victory against the Japanese convoy in the Bismark Sea was a major one.

The Japanese began a general retreat from the west bank of the Upper Salween and in China's Yunnan province.

American aircraft heavily bombed the Japanese air base at Munda.

8th Mar.—A Japanese bomber was shot down over Darwin.

9th Mar.—The Japanese troops captured four towns west of Shasi.

General MacArthur issued a warning that Japanese air forces in south-west Pacific were increasing in strength.

Japanese bombers sank an Allied merchantman in Oro Bay.

10th Mar.—Admiral Thierry D'Argentien, a member of the French National Committee and High French Commissioner in the Pacific, said that the Japanese did not want to take Australia but only to isolate it from the rest of the world.

Japanese aircraft bombed the aerodrome at Wau in New Guinea.

THIRTY-SIX YEARS AFLOAT

Thirty-six years' service in the Royal Indian Marine and Royal Indian Navy is the proud record of Commissioned Boatswain Shaikh Jainoo, who was awarded the Order of British India and the title of 'Bahadur' in the New Year's Honours List.

For nine years, until 1915, he served in one ship, R.I.M.S. " Minto ", receiving successive advancements in rank until he became Sukhani in 1913.

When war broke out in the following year " Minto " was ordered to the Red Sea on patrol duty and on one occasion was sent to intercept the German cruiser " Konigsberg."

Promoted to warrant rank, he was employed as an instructor in a training ship for boys from 1925 to 1933, and afterwards went afloat in " Hindustan " and " Investigator." He became a Commissioned Boatswain in 1938, and since the present war started he has served in H.M.I.S. " Bahadur ", the Senior Boys' Training Establishment of the Royal Indian Navy at Karachi.

His long and meritorious service is a splendid example to boys beginning their careers in the Navy.

Grow More Food—in Your Gardens!

Leguminous Vegetables

BEANS AND PEAS

1. Egyptian Kidney Bean.

Dolichos lablab, L. Family Legumniosae; *Avarakai,* Tam.; *Chikkudikaya,* Tel.; *Amarakka,* Mal.

Description.—A strong-growing climbing bean with trifoliate leaves. It occurs in several varieties with white, pink, or purplish flowers. Pods are flat and broad with warted or wavy margins.

Propagation.—The seeds which can be obtained from any seed-merchant are sown an inch deep in soil which has been dug up with well-rotted cowdung and ash obtained by burning dry leaves.

Cultivation.—The seeds must be planted about 3-4 feet apart. Keep the soil damp. The plants are then allowed to climb over a trellis. The pods can be picked from the third or fourth month after sowing; the plants continue to produce pods for more than a year.

Season for cultivation.—On the plains, sow during May to June or when the rains cease. On the hills, from April to June.

Uses.—The tender pods are used a great deal for curries. Since the plant produces fruits almost all the year round, there is no need to store the pods.

General Analysis.—Water 83·3 per cent; mineral 0·8 per cent; protein 4·9 per cent; fat 0·4 per cent; fibre 1·8 per cent; carbohydrate 8·8 per cent; calories per lb. 300; calcium 0·32 per cent; magnesium 0·035 per cent; phosphorus 0·098 per cent; iron 0·007 per cent; Vitamin A—I.U. per 100 gm—540; Vitamin B—I.U. per 100 gm—25; Vitamin C—mgm per 100 gm—40·6 per cent.

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